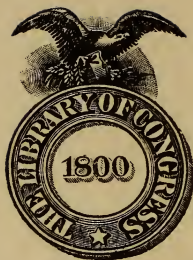


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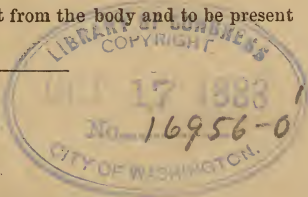
OR,

## LAST WORDS OF AMERICAN PRES- BYTERIAN MINISTERS.

✓ BY

ALFRED NEVIN, D.D., LL.D.  
||

“Willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present  
with the Lord.”—2 COR. v. 8.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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“OUR Saviour Jesus Christ hath abolished death” (2 Tim. i. 10). The word which is rendered “abolished” signifies also “made of none effect:” “He hath abolished death, or made death of none effect.” He has not abolished *going home* and *falling asleep* and *departing*, but he has abolished *death*. He has turned the curse into a blessing; he has made of the enemy a friend. If we are Christians, instead of robbing us it relieves, it enriches; it is the making of us for ever. TO DIE IS GAIN!

“Why do we mourn departing friends

Or shake at death’s alarms?

’Tis but the voice that Jesus sends

To call them to his arms.”

Many professed followers of Christ, notwithstanding he has triumphed over the last enemy for his people, are “all their lifetime subject to bondage through fear of death.” Nor, in one view, is this

strange. It is at least reconcilable with a firm faith on their part that for them death has been conquered and rendered harmless. The serpent, as has well been said, may hiss when it cannot bite. (The poisonous fang may be extracted before our eyes, and yet we may feel dread at taking the harmless adder into our bosom.) There is embedded in our very nature an instinctive repulsion to dissolution. The apostles themselves, who had the first-fruits of the Spirit, said, "In this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: if so be that, being clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened, not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life." What wonder, therefore, if ordinary Christians feel the same? This feeling is certainly not to be regarded as evidence that they do not love Christ and long to be with him, any more than the absentee whose estate and wife and children are in a foreign land, and whose heart is there also, yet, when looking on the vast Atlantic, shudders and shrinks back, may warrantably, from this fact, question his love to them or his desire to be with them.

As Jesus has abolished death as a penalty for his

people, of course *all* believers die *safely*: there is no curse for them after death or in death. Well may those who believe enter into rest; well may they sing,

“If sin be pardoned, I’m secure :

Death has no sting beside ;

The law gives sin its damning power,

But Christ, my Ransom, died.”

And it may not be doubted that the dying of Christians is commonly much favored in the actual experience. Anxieties and forebodings which were painfully felt by them with regard to departure from the world are in a great degree dispelled and destroyed by the event itself. When the hour has arrived, they have mercy and grace to help in time of need, and, amazed at their former apprehensions and their present feelings, say,

“Tell me, my soul,

Can *this* be *death*?”

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

Still, it is true that there is great diversity in the experience of Christians in their final hours. Some die only safe, while their state is unknown to themselves and suspected by others; in some hope and



fear alternately prevail; some feel a peace which passeth all understanding; while some exult with a joy unspeakable and full of glory. There is every form and phase of experience, from that of Cowper, who died in despair, to that of Hervey, who said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." It is not necessary here minutely to inquire into all the reasons of the diversity just stated. It is enough to know that there are cases in which Christians may be affected all through life—even up to the closing scene—by something morbid in their constitution which subjects them to various changes and depressions with which religion has no concern. Constitutional malady causes their hope to contend with fear which they are not always able to repel, if, indeed, through its influence, they do not die under a cloud of darkness and a load of depression. Such was the condition of the heavenly bard just named, and such has been that of hundreds of others. They have departed under a physical depression with which religious encouragements contended in vain. But, though their end was not peace in the exit, it was peace in the issue. Their despondency did not affect their right to the tree of life. They condemned themselves, but God delighted in them.



It is always a matter for thanksgiving when Christians possess and display the full assurance of hope, and with triumph exchange "the earthly house of this tabernacle" for the "building of God, the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." In them is fulfilled the language of the promise, "With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the King's palace." They are "joyful in glory" before they have reached it, and "shout aloud upon their" dying "beds." "God deals with them as he did with Moses when he led him to the top of Pisgah and gave him a prospect of the Holy Land, only with this difference: his view was a substitute for possession, while their look is to render the passage easier and to make them hasten to the goodly mountain of Lebanon. Such a death the apostle valued more than the continuance of life: all his concern was to "finish his course with joy;" and the assured hope of this would animate thousands and reconcile them to all the trials they endure. It is desirable and valuable with regard to both themselves and others.

The following instances, in which some of God's dear ministering servants, as representatives of many of "like precious faith," when they reached the borders of the river between them and Immanuel's

land, glanced at the hills and heard something of the harmony and inhaled the fragrance blown across, are replete with interest, and should not fail to be read with profit. The surest method for the attainment of happiness in death is to live in the strenuous cultivation of practical and progressive religion. "And, besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue, knowledge, and to knowledge, temperance, and to temperance, patience, and to patience, godliness, and to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

## HOW THEY DIED.

---

ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER, D. D.

To his pastor, the Rev. W. E. Schenck, D. D., on the Thursday preceding his death, Dr. Alexander said, "My children are all with me. The church of which you are pastor is prosperous and flourishing. The Seminary faculty is again full, and the institution is in an excellent condition. The more I reflect upon the matter, the more all things seem to combine to make me perfectly willing to enter into my rest. The Lord has very graciously and tenderly led me," he added, closing his eyes and clasping his hands in a devotional manner, "all the days of my life—yes, all the days of my life. *And he is now with me still. In him I enjoy perfect peace.*"

## REV. WELLS ANDREWS.

Mr. Andrews, during his last illness, said to a Methodist minister who visited him, "Tell your people, for me, to work for Jesus. Let my Methodist and Presbyterian brethren all work for Jesus." A short time before he died he gently whispered, "All is well! all is well!"

---

## HEZEKIAH BALCH, D. D.

When a friend first mentioned to Dr. Balch his approaching death and his entrance into the world of retribution, "Sir," said he, "with such a Redeemer as the Lord Jesus Christ for my dependence, I scorn to be afraid to die." Not many days afterward he resumed his soul-rejoicing theme. "Sir," said he, "if it were not for the infinite atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ as the dependence of my soul before God, I would not go into eternity for ten thousand worlds. Without this, if I had strength, I would be running through the woods and tearing the trees for very agony; but with this for my reliance, here I am, sir, calmly awaiting the mighty Master's call."

## LYMAN BEECHER, D. D.

On the day before Dr. Beecher's death the veil was rent and a vision of glory was vouchsafed to him. He called, "Mother, mother! come sit beside me. I have had a glorious vision of heaven!" His countenance was luminous, his utterance was full and strong as in his best days. He continued: "I think I have begun to go. Oh, such scenes as I have been permitted to behold! I have seen the King of glory himself. Blessed God for revealing thyself! I did not think I could behold such glory while in the flesh." He prayed in an inspired manner for some time, and then soliloquized: "Until this evening my hope was a conditional one; now it is full, free, entire. Oh, glory to God!"

His daughter, Mrs. Stowe, asked,

"Have you any fear?"

"No, none at all; and, what is wonderful, I have no pain, either," passing his hand over his head.

She repeated,

" 'I shall be satisfied, when I awake, in thy likeness.' "

"How wonderful," he answered, "that a creature can approach the Creator so as to awake in his likeness! Oh, glorious, glorious God!"

“I rejoice with you, father.”

“I know you rejoice as a pious woman, but you cannot enter into my experience now.”

“Father, did you see Jesus?”

“All was swallowed up in God himself.”

Dr. Beecher's last indication of life on the day of his death was a mute response to his wife repeating,

“Jesus, Lover of my soul,  
Let me to thy bosom fly.”

---

#### REV. JOHN D. BLAIR.

When Mr. Blair found his end approaching he had his children called around his bed, and in an address to them said, “After I am gone, if it is asked whether I made any remarkable speech, you may answer, ‘No,’ but that I am not without hope and confidence. I depend on Him in whom I have believed. I think I have a right to plead his promises of mercy. He has never left me nor forsaken me. He has supported me all along, and, I believe, will do so still. I know that I must pass through the dark valley and shadow of death, but I think I am prepared for God's will, and that I shall

be ready when he shall call me home. ‘Lord Jesus, into thy hands I commend my spirit.’”

---

REV. SAMUEL BLAIR.

As Mr. Blair approached his end he expressed the strongest desire to depart and be with Christ, and but a minute or two before his departure he exclaimed, “The Bridegroom is come, and we shall now have all things.”

---

SAMUEL BLATCHFORD, D. D.

Dr. Blatchford, when conversing, on his death-bed, with reference to his departure, said, “I feel like a passenger waiting to be carried over Jordan,” and at another time, when in great distress of body, “It is harder crossing the stream than I had anticipated, but the beauties of Canaan are not at all diminished by it.” When a member of his family proposed to take him some nourishment, he replied, with a sweet smile which lighted up his countenance, almost pallid in death, “My *eating* days are



almost over, but my *banquet* days are all before me. Oh, eternity, eternity! How bright will be its shining! How rich will be its joys!"

---

REV. REID BRACKEN.

A little while before his decease, Mr. Bracken, in addressing his children, said, "I have a comfortable hope of meeting my Saviour in peace and spending eternity in happiness. It is of the greatest consequence to have a hope that maketh not ashamed. It is my sincere desire that all my children should be prepared. Give all diligence to make your calling and election sure. Rely upon the merits of Christ as the only foundation of hope."

---

JOHN BRECKINRIDGE, D. D.

One of the last sentences Dr. Breckinridge uttered was, "I am a poor sinner who have worked hard and had constantly before my mind one great object—the conversion of the world." Again he said, "Nothing is impossible with God." And a little after, "God is with me."



## JAMES M. BROWN, D. D.

In the evening one said to Dr. Brown, "I think you are almost on the top of Pisgah, in sight of the Promised Land." In a few moments he raised his voice with a strength that seemed supernatural, and sang the stanza :

"Could we but climb where Moses stood,  
And view the landscape o'er,  
Not Jordan's stream, nor death's cold flood,  
Could fright us from the shore."

He lay quietly until midnight, when he was heard to whisper, "Glory be to God !" A friend having said to him, "You are very near to glory," he replied, "Yes, I hope I am." And when asked if he wished to leave any testimony for the religion of Christ, he said, "I trust I have done it," and spoke no more.

---

SAMUEL BUELL, D. D.

When asked on his death-bed concerning the state of his mind, Dr. Buell requested his friends, in order to obtain it, to read the seventeenth chapter of John repeating several times the twenty-fourth verse : "Father, I will that they also whom thou hast

given me be with me where I am, that they may behold the glory which thou hast given me."

---

REV. PHINEAS CAMP.

When Mr. Camp was asked if he felt prepared to depart, he replied, "Yes, yes! I settled that question long before this. This trying hour would be insupportable were it not for my hope in Christ." His last words were, "Farewell, world, farewell!"

---

REV. JOHN CARMICHAEL.

Mr. Carmichael's death was a scene of uncommon triumph, and the last expression that fell from his lips was, "Oh that I had a thousand tongues, that I might employ them all in inviting sinners to Christ."

---

LEWIS CHEESEMAN, D. D.

In an hour of trial and suffering shortly before his death Dr. Cheeseman said, "I am not afraid to die, for I know that my Redeemer liveth."

## REV. EBENEZER CHEEVER.

Among Mr. Cheever's last conscious words were, "God, be merciful!" "O death, where is thy sting?" "Come, dear Father—oh, come quickly!" and then, turning to his wife, he said, "Don't do anything to keep me here."

---

## REV. MR. CHENEY.

The last day of his life Mr. Cheney prayed at frequent intervals, as his strength permitted, for the building up of the Church and the spread of the gospel. He said, "I have been an unworthy servant, but the blood of Christ can atone for all;" and often, apparently oblivious to all around him, he ejaculated, "Precious Saviour!" and other words of trust and prayer.

---

## CHARLES COFFIN, D.D.

The calm faith and the beautiful trust with which, in his last illness, Dr. Coffin met the announcement of his physician that all earthly hope had passed

were thus expressed: "I am well aware of it, sir, but I am in the hands of a Being who cannot err. He doeth all things well." As one of his constant and faithful nurses was examining his pulse he asked, "How do you find it? How many does it beat?" When told that the strokes were few and feeble, he said, "All is well:

"'Jesus can make a dying bed  
Feel soft as downy pillows are.'"

---

#### HENRY G. COMINGO, D. D.

"To-morrow," said Dr. Comingo, "is the first Sabbath of December, and I shall spend it in heaven." Then, clasping his hands, with light from heaven upon his face, he exclaimed,

"'Oh, glorious hour! Oh, blest abode!  
I shall be near and like my God.'"

---

#### SAMUEL CROTHERS, D. D.

"The time has come for me to take my stand with the great multitude which no man can number, clothed in white robes, with palms in their hands."

## JOSHUA N. DANFORTH, D. D.

When told that the physician thought his condition very critical, and asked if it was well with him, Dr. Danforth replied, "How should it be otherwise than peaceful and happy, since Jesus has died for me? All is well. I have nothing to regret in the way of God's dealing with me. Just right, just right—all right!"

---

## REV. JONATHAN DICKINSON.

The Rev. Mr. Johnes, of Morristown, who was with Mr. Dickinson just before his death, asked him concerning his prospects, and his reply was, "Many days have passed between God and my soul in which I have solemnly dedicated myself to him, and I trust what I have committed unto him he is able to keep until that day."

---

## REV. GILES DOOLITTLE.

As the light of earth grew dim and the splendors of the heavenly world were bursting upon his vision,

Mr. Doolittle, raising both hands, exclaimed, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

---

SAMUEL FINLEY, D. D.

The Rev. Elihu Spencer called to see Dr. Finley on the day preceding his death, and said, "I have come, dear sir, to see you confirm by facts the gospel you have been preaching. Pray, sir, how do you feel?" To which he replied, "Full of triumph. I triumph through Christ. Nothing clips my wings but the thought of my dissolution being prolonged. Oh that it were to-night! My very soul thirsts for eternal rest." Mr. Spencer asked him what he saw in eternity to excite such vehement desires. "I see," said he, "the eternal love and goodness of God; I see the fullness of the Mediator; I see the love of Jesus. Oh to be dissolved and to be with him! I long to be clothed with the complete righteousness of Christ."

Dr. Finley spent the rest of the evening in taking leave of his friends and in addressing affectionate counsels and exhortations to those of his children who were present. He would frequently cry out,

“Why move the tardy hours so slow?” The next day brought him the release for which he had so long panted. He was no longer able to speak, but, a friend having desired him to indicate by a sign whether he still continued to triumph, he lifted his hand and articulated, “Yes.”

---

### ANDREW FLINN, D. D.

In his last moments Dr. Flinn took an affectionate farewell of his mourning family and friends, and then, with perfect composure, raised his hands and eyes to heaven and said, “Jesus, into thy hands I commend my spirit.”

---

### REV. JOSHUA E. FORD.

Mr. Ford had been a missionary at Beirut, Syria. The evening before his death, on being informed of his critical state, he said, “The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord.” To the question, “Would you not like to get well and go back to Syria?” he replied, “Yes,



if it is the Lord's will ; his will is best. The Lord is jealous for his work, and he will take care of it." When his wife asked what she would do without him, he said, "The Lord is better to you than ten thousand husbands. The Lord is your Shepherd ; you shall not want."—"What will our children do without their father?"—"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." He was frequent and earnest to the last in his ascriptions of praise to God and his expressions of entire peace in Christ.

---

REV. ROBERT S. FULLERTON.

In the last connected conversation which Mr. Fullerton held with his family and friends he said, "I am so inexpressibly happy that I must talk to you a little while. I wish to say that I would not exchange this bed of pain for crowns and kingdoms. I did not think that I should be permitted to enter the Land of Beulah while here on earth, but I have entered it ;" "Do not think that this is excitement : I am as calm as ever I was, but my peace and joy are beyond expression ;" "Oh, can it



be that God would thus reveal himself to one so unworthy? Heaven is indeed begun below.”

---

REV. SAMUEL R. GAYLEY.

Mr. Gayley had at one time been afraid of death. In the final hour, when Mr. Nevius, his fellow-missionary, asked, “What new views have you now?” he said, “It is not dying, it is not a cessation; it is just living on. I have no language to express it.” When Mr. Nevius added, “It is the expanding of spiritual life into eternal life,” “Yes,” said Mr. Gayley, eagerly; “it’s just that;” and then, as seeing things unutterable, he said to the brethren near, “I am wiser than you are to-day. You do not know what is before you: I know what my work is.”

---

REV. ROBERT GLENN.

When the deep waters were approaching Mr. Glenn’s footsteps, a ministerial brother inquired if he felt that he was on the Rock. He replied, “Yes, but as a poor guilty sinner, with no hope but in precious atoning blood.”

## CHARLES HALL, D. D.

When Dr. Hall was told that he was dying, he called his wife from the adjoining room, and, throwing his arms around her neck, he exclaimed, "Triumph in death! Triumph in death!" She asked, "Is it triumph in Jesus?"—"Yes," he answered, "in Jesus."

---

## JEPHTHA HARRISON, D. D.

In the near prospect of death, Dr. Harrison said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. All is right with me."

---

## REV. SAMUEL HIBBEN.

On the morning of his death, having been asked by a friend if his faith in the Saviour of sinners was still unwavering, Mr. Hibben looked into the face of the inquirer and wept, then, with a countenance beaming with inexpressible joy and dignity, but with faltering tongue, said, "First Timothy, first chapter, fifteenth verse: 'It is a faithful saying—'" Here voice and utterance failed, and,

his father having carried out the text—"that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief"—"That's it! that's it!" he said. When his father, at his request, read to him 1 Peter i., the reading of which seemed to comfort him, he remarked, "That is sufficient." A few moments after this, opening his eyes, beaming with angelic lustre, and turning them toward his weeping wife and mother and then toward heaven he said,

"A guilty, weak and helpless worm,  
On thy kind arms I fall :  
Be thou my strength and righteousness,  
My Jesus and my all."

Soon a parting and final adieu to those present closed the triumphant scene.

---

### CHARLES HODGE, D.D., LL.D.

Dr. Hodge died, with all his family around him, as the setting sun, glorifying the lower heavens with the peaceful brightness of his faith and love. To a weeping daughter he said, "Dearest, don't weep. To be absent from the body is to be with the Lord.

To be with the Lord is to see him. To see the Lord is to be like him."

---

REV. WILLIAM S. HUGGINS.

On the morning of the day in which Mr. Huggins entered into rest he chimed his feeble voice to "Rock of Ages," and other dying-room melodies which his friends tried to sing. He said, "It is pleasant to go down into the valley, and to go up on the other side." Being reminded that it was Sabbath morning, and asked if he had anything to say for his people about to assemble, he said he had a great deal to say, but was satisfied with the thought that he had said all to them while in health. He struggled, however, to articulate such messages as, "Tell them to be active and zealous Christians," "To throw away the world out of their thoughts, and the Lord will direct their minds in all things."

---

REV. DAVID HUGHES.

During his final sickness Mr. Hughes always expressed the fullest assurance of his peace with

God. On the night before his death he sang with a clear voice, as expressive of his own feelings, the hymn,

“Father, I long, I faint, to see  
The place of thine abode.”

---

REV. E. R. JOHNSON.

About the last of Mr. Johnson's utterances as he drew near the gate of the city was “It is all light. Heaven is bright!”

---

JOHN KING, D. D.

A short time before his decease Dr. King said to the Rev. David Elliot, D. D., as he sat by his bedside, “I have now no doubt of my love to God. He is the most glorious of all objects; no other can be compared to him.”

---

REV. JOHN KIRKPATRICK.

The day preceding his death Dr. Kirkpatrick, speaking of the comforts of the gospel, said, “They are as calm as heaven and as permanent as immor-

tality." An hour or two before he breathed his last, having been apparently engaged for some time in prayer, he clasped his hands and exultingly exclaimed, "Thanks be to God, I have obtained the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

---

### HENRY KOLLOCK, D. D.

As a brother in the ministry approached the bed of Dr. Kollock a very short time before he fell asleep in Jesus, he took his hand and uttered, with some effort to speak distinctly, the following passage: "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all our tribulations, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ."

---

### WILLIAM LATTA, D. D.

As Dr. Latta's son, the Rev. W. W. Latta, with a dear relative and a member of his congregation,

sat by his bedside the evening before his decease, he exclaimed, "What is that light shining directly above us?" When asked by his son if he thought he had glimpses of the celestial world, he replied, "I behold the Saviour in his glory. I can see the very wheels of his chariot of salvation." After a pause he added, "Blessed Saviour! may my arms be thrown open wide that I may be prepared to embrace thee the moment I am ushered into thine immediate divine presence." At another time he said, "It has been the prayer of my life that I might be permitted to glorify my Saviour on my death-bed, and God has granted me the earnest longings of my heart." When told that his death was very near, he exclaimed, "Can this indeed be death? If so, how sweet a thing it is to die!" When asked whether he would rather recover and tarry yet a little longer on the earth, he replied, "I would rather a thousand times depart now and be where Jesus is."

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### JAMES LAURIE, D. D.

On Sunday, the day preceding his death, Dr. Laurie requested that the hymn "Jerusalem my



happy home" might be sung that morning in his church. His last words were, "It is well."

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JOHN B. LINN, D.D.

Dr. Linn, on the evening of his death, retired about half-past ten o'clock, but scarcely had his head touched the pillow when he said to his wife, "I feel something burst within me. Call the family together. I am dying." Instantly his utterance was choked by a stream of blood. Recovering a little strength, he exclaimed, with hands clasped and eyes uplifted, "Lord Jesus, pardon my transgressions and receive my soul," and when he had said this his spirit had fled.

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REV. CHARLES H. LLOYD.

Mr. Lloyd died in service as a missionary to Africa. "Thy will be done!" was his submissive prayer and his only anxiety. To a friend who was conversing with him a short time before his death he said, "When I am dead, I wish you would bury me near the tree standing about thirty feet from the



door of your new chapel. Mrs. Lloyd will enclose the spot and erect my tombstone there, where all your Sabbath worshipers can see it as they go up to worship. As they look it may be they will remember that the dead man came to preach to them. Thus I wish, hope and pray that my grave may preach the gospel when I am gone."

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JOHN M. LOWRIE, D. D.

As his end drew near Dr. Lowrie called his family around him, and after addressing a kind word to each one he asked them to sing the hymn "Just as I am, without one plea," with the chorus, "Happy day, happy day." Being afterward asked how he felt in reference to death, he said, "I do not feel that awful solemnity which I always supposed I would when about to appear in the presence of God. I do not seem fully to appreciate the peculiar position I am in, and yet I feel my hope is founded upon an intelligent view of the plan of salvation through the grace of Christ." After resting a few minutes he said, "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. Why, oh why, do thy chariots tarry? I long to depart and be with Christ." The last intelligible

words he uttered were, "Victory! Triumphant victory!"

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REV. JAMES Y. MCGINNES.

Twice or thrice was the adversary permitted sorely to assail Mr. McGinnes in his final hours, but the result in every instance was increased peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. "I have," said he, "read of the valley of the shadow of death, but now I know what it is from experience. But, blessed be God! he is with me; his rod and staff comfort me."

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ERASMUS D. MACMASTER, D. D.

In his extreme illness several passages of Scripture were repeated in Dr. Macmaster's hearing as appropriate to his condition, when he said, "Oh how much of precious matter is contained in God's word! Tell our dear young men to incorporate it abundantly in their sermons." Shortly after this, reference was made to his last sermon and its precious text—"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him against that day"—when he said,

“That is it; that expresses my views and feelings now.”—“You trust, doctor, that he is your Saviour?”—“I *know*,” was his reply. To another friend he said, “I die in the strength of the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who redeemed us from all iniquity.” A little later he said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit, redeemed, washed, sanctified by the blood of the cross. I commit myself to thee and thy keeping, who art the Resurrection and the Life.” He lay for some time with his eyes intently fixed upward. At length his brother said, “Why do you look so earnestly, as if to heaven?”—“I see the heavens opened,” he replied, “and Jesus on the right hand of God.” Being asked, “Is Jesus with you now?” though the power of speech was almost gone, he answered, “Yes.” And when told that he must rest in the arms of Jesus like a little child, a smile lighted his countenance and his head bowed the acquiescence which his lips could scarcely speak. In subdued tones the company around his bedside then sang the hymn containing the following verse:

“Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its power,  
Till all the ransomed Church of God  
Be saved to sin no more.”

## REV. CHARLES B. MAGILL.

To the inquiry, propounded by his mother, "Is Jesus precious?" Mr. Magill's prompt reply was, "Precious—very precious! Precious all the time." To the question, "Do you love Jesus more than you do mother?" he said, "Yes, yes! and you know what that means." Perfect love had cast out all fear of death, and his victory over sin and Satan, earth and death, was apparent to every weeping eye.

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## ERSKINE MASON, D. D.

When the last moment came, Dr. Mason declared, "It is all bright and clear."

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## HUGH MAIR, D. D.

A little while before his death, Dr. Mair, being asked if his mind was peaceful, answered, "I have no particular anxiety. If God be for us, who can be against us?" and then repeated the passage, gathering himself up, apparently, into an attitude corresponding with its triumphant tone.

## WILLIAM MORRISON, D. D.

On Sabbath morning Dr. Morrison said to his wife, "You know that the Sabbath has always been my best day, and my employment then my best employment. But this is the last Sabbath I shall spend on earth. In a short time I shall be spending an everlasting Sabbath." He added, with a smile, "Will not that be a blessed exchange?" In the evening he uttered a most solemn and affectionate prayer, in the course of which he intimated that it would be the last prayer he should ever offer. After this he took each of his family affectionately by the hand, and then said, "Now, Lord, what wait I for?" He expired just as the words "Come, come, Lord Jesus!" had passed from his lips.

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## DAVID NELSON, M. D.

When Dr. Nelson became satisfied that his end was near, he called his wife and children around him and said, "My Master calls: I am going home. Kiss me, my children, and take your last farewell, for I shall soon be in a state of insensibility, and

shall not know you." He then most tenderly and impressively addressed one of his children, who he feared had not entered on the religious life, and on the promise to serve the Lord being given he turned over and said, "It is well;" and these were his last words.

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CHARLES NISBET, D. D.

Even after Dr. Nisbet lost the power of conversing with those around him his mind was evidently absorbed in communion with God. He died with "Holy, holy, holy!" upon his lips.

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REV. JOSEPH PATTERSON.

The evening before his death Mr. Patterson requested his wife to read the one hundred and third psalm, and when she had done so he remarked, "I have been trying all my life to come up to the tone and spirit of that psalm, and at length I believe I can." Awaking unwell on the subsequent morning, and becoming sensible that the time of his departure was at hand, he said, "The time is come, Lord. Help!" and, closing his eyes, expired without a struggle.



## REV. JOHN PEEBLES.

The answers of Mr. Peebles to inquiries respecting his state of mind gave satisfactory evidence that he had no dread of death, resting his hopes entirely on the mediation of the Redeemer. In view of his departure and the glories of the upper sanctuary, he more than once exclaimed, "Oh, that will be joyful!"

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## REV. ROSWELL PETTIBONE.

"It is a solemn thing to die. I have always thought I should be one that would start back, but I don't feel so now. It is all of Christ. Nothing else. If it were not for Christ, we should all be gone."

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## MATTHEW LA RUE PERRINE, D.D.

To a ministerial friend who visited him Dr. Perrine said, "God makes you the witness of my concluding scenes of life. Shall I tell you of my hope? Oh how wonderful that hope is! How passing wonder that it should be mine! Nothing of

the kind—nothing like it in the universe. It makes more than a prince of worse than a pauper. My hope is all Christian. It is all Christ—our Lord Jesus Christ, who is our hope. The same God that brings me to heaven will keep me there, or I should never keep myself even there. It is the grace of the Father, the prevalent mediation of the Son, the energy of the eternal Spirit, that I shall for ever need, and also for ever enjoy. It is here I find the Rock of Ages. My sins—wonderful to tell or to know—are not too great to be forgiven, not so great as his grace, not so enslaving as he is absolving. What wonderful deliverance! What I want is to have grace to the end, that I may not dishonor such a Saviour; that I may glorify him before I disappear to the living; that I may recommend him to all others when they see what he enables me to suffer and vanquish, and to enjoy in him. The glory all his own for ever!”

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REV. GEORGE D. PORTER.

During his illness Mr. Porter's sufferings were extreme, he being obliged to sit in his chair for nearly a month. To his family and to friends ex-



pressing sympathy for him, his uniform reply was, "It is all right. The Lord doeth all things well;" and never a murmur escaped his lips. He loved much to hear his children sing for him the hymns "Just as I am," etc., and "Jesus paid it all," etc. A calm and unwavering faith in the Lord and Redeemer supported him down to the Jordan and over to the promised land.

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#### SAMUEL RALSTON, D. D.

On the day of his death, as the struggle came on, Dr. Ralston calmly felt his own pulse, found it sinking away, and exclaimed, without faltering or agitation, "I am ready. I am a sinner saved by grace. Tell my brethren, tell the congregation, that I die in the faith I so long preached. I die relying upon the meritorious righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. What a blessing to have such a Rock!"

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#### WILLIAM SHIELDS REID, D. D.

During his illness Dr. Reid was asked whether, if he had his whole life to live again, he would spend it in preaching the gospel. He replied, "Oh

yes! Had I my whole life to live again, I should only preach with the more earnestness Jesus Christ and him crucified. He is the only Saviour, and he is all-sufficient." His last words, uttered with an inexpressible sense of repose in his face, were, "There is peace in death as well as in life."

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### JOHN H. RICE, D. D.

After many distresses of body, in which his mind painfully sympathized to a degree of morbid depression, Dr. Rice at length, when all were awaiting his departure, experienced a singular relief. Turning suddenly to Mrs. Rice, throwing his arms around her neck, and looking in her face with a clear, bright eye beaming with heavenly joy, he exclaimed, "Mercy is triumphant." As some doubted what the last word was, he made a fresh effort and said, "Triumphant!" when instantly his head fell and he was gone.

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### REV. JAMES RODGERS, D. D.

From one of Dr. Rodgers's children his sufferings elicited the sympathizing expression, "Poor father!"

to which he at once replied, "Not poor father. When Christ is rich, how can I be poor?" To some inquiries as to his state of mind he answered, "I have no fear to die and no desire to live; for me death has no terrors and life no charms." He desired the seventeenth chapter of John's Gospel to be read to him, and on awaking after a brief slumber, his mind recurring to it, he said, "Oh that weight of glory!"

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#### REV. RALPH ROBINSON.

On the Sabbath before his decease the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was administered to Mr. Robinson. The hymns "Rock of ages, cleft for me," and "Jesus, Lover of my soul," were sung. In the midst of the exercises he broke out with the exclamation, "Grace, grace! Grace from the foundation to the top-stone." At the close of the services he was asked if he would not like to say a word to those present. He remarked, "I have been contemplating to-day the plan of salvation. The plan of salvation is so wonderful! It is the wonder of angels. I would say to every one of you, Press on

in the strait and narrow way that leads to eternal life. Trust in Christ alone for salvation. In every duty in your several relations be faithful. Take God's word for your guide. Be faithful unto death, and the Lord will give you a crown of life. Amen."

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JOHN B. ROMEYN, D.D.

The last words Dr. Romeyn uttered were, "Blessed Jesus, while passing through the dark valley of death, do thou spread underneath me thine everlasting arms. Come, Lord Jesus! Receive me into thy kingdom, which thou hast prepared for thy chosen ones, that I may join in singing hallelujahs for ever and ever."

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REV. MOSES RUSSELL.

Mr. Russell's physician said to one of his family, "Though I have witnessed many death-scenes, I have never before known the Christian's love of Christ gain so complete a victory." And his own words were, "As I have lived in the faith of God,

I can die in it. God has never deceived me, and he will not now. My belief is Christ and him crucified. Christ is my 'all and in all.'"

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REV. ASHBEL G. SIMONTON.

Mr. Simonton was a missionary to Brazil. In his last illness his sister asked him, "Have you any message for the friends at home?"—"Nothing special," was the reply. "Tell them I loved them to the end."—"Have you any message for the Board?"—"Tell them to go on with their work." "Any message for your church in Rio, where you will be so much missed?"—"God will raise up another to fill my place: he will do his own work with his own instruments." Seeing his sister convulsed with emotion, he said, "We can only lean on the everlasting arm and be quiet."

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JOSIAH D. SMITH, D. D.

When Dr. Smith's utterance was so feeble as scarcely to be understood, there was one affectionate

ear which caught the words that were meant for none but the Master to hear: "The lowest place! The lowest place, dear Jesus!"

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### MILES P. SQUIER, D.D.

The last time Dr. Squier's household were gathered at his bed for family prayers he looked around on them and said, "I love you all, but I desire to leave you." The last part of 1 Cor. xv. was read, and the twenty-third psalm, "The Lord is my Shepherd," was sung. Dr. Squier said, "That is not quite it. I have done with the present and past, and have only to do with the other world. Sing 'My heavenly home.'" They sang, "My home is in heaven, my rest is not here," etc., in a part of which he joined vocally.

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### ICHABOD S. SPENCER, D.D.

Dr. Spring thus relates his parting interview with Dr. Spencer: "I said to him, 'Brother Spencer, I am afraid you are about to leave us.' He replied,

‘I think so.’ I took his hand, and he said, ‘You see, I am strong. I may rally, but it is more than probable that I shall leave you by to-morrow morning.’—‘Is it *peace* with you, brother?’ His body was in agony; he tossed his head on the pillow and replied, ‘*It is all peace.*’ He paused, and, fixing his piercing eye upon me, he said, ‘I am afraid it is too much peace. I cannot discover in myself those evidences of personal godliness which justify me in enjoying such abundant peace.’ I could not repress a smile at these sweet words, and then reminded him of those words of the Lord Jesus when he said, ‘I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it *more abundantly.*’ He simply replied, ‘Pray with me,’ and then called his family around his bed, where we knelt and prayed together for the last time.”

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### ROBERT STEEL, D. D.

Dr. Steel gave up his soul to God, saying—or rather whispering—to a beloved brother (the Rev. Mr. Belville), as he put his hand upon his heart, “*I have a peace here that passeth all understanding.*”



## REV. JOSEPH STOCKTON.

Having requested the fifteenth chapter of John to be read, and joining in prayer with a ministerial brother, Mr. Stockton remarked, "The battle is nearly fought. Christ is with me." He frequently prayed, "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly; thy servant waits."

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## REV. DANIEL STRATTON.

In his last days Mr. Stratton used frequent ejaculations, such as "Complete in Christ!" "To see him and know him as he is!" "He has been with me in six troubles: in the seventh he will not forsake me." He frequently dwelt upon the hymn commencing, "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord!" On the day of his death, looking upon the loving group around him, he said, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord cause his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you! The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen and amen!"



## PETER O. STUDDIFORD, D. D.

During his closing hours Dr. Studdiford said to a ministerial brother, "I feel conscious of deficiencies, but the Lord has granted to me his presence and sustained me by his grace. I have found him to be a precious Saviour. I would not exchange my situation as a humble minister of the gospel for that of the greatest prince on earth, or the honor of serving such a Master for all the honors this world can give." The evening before he died his mind wandered, but after a season of extreme agony his pain suddenly left him ; his reason returned, and with a radiant face he exclaimed, "Let me go, for the day breaketh !" About two hours before his death, on being asked, "Is it well with you ?" he replied, "All is well. I know that my Redeemer liveth." He then repeated the first line of a favorite hymn, "Jesus, thou art the living Head," and of a psalm he often used in public worship: "Happy the man whose hopes rely on Israel's God." He then said, "Into thy hands I commit my spirit," and engaged in prayer, but quite inaudibly. After that he waved his hand, requesting those around him to leave the bedside, evidently desiring to be alone with God.

## REV. SAMUEL TAIT.

On his death-bed Mr. Tait felt much for the dear people for whose salvation he had so long labored, and literally spent his dying breath in praying for a revival of religion among them. And when his end drew nigh, a minister and friend who stood by his bed inquired if he found comfort *now* in the doctrines he had so long preached to others. His answer was, "All is peace—peace through the blood of Christ."

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## STEPHEN TAYLOR, D.D.

"Oh," said Dr. Taylor, during one of the severe paroxysms that preceded his death, "oh, my brother, I am suffering excessively—almost beyond the endurance of nature; but, thanks be to God, his love superabounds. Oh, the precious grace of the Lord Jesus Christ! Preach Christ, my brother—preach Christ!"

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## REV. SAMUEL M. TEMPLETON.

Mr. Templeton's wife, being informed of the great change that had taken place in his condition,

said to him immediately "Pa, you are going to leave us. Can you put your trust in the Saviour?" He replied earnestly, "You *know* that I can," and after a moment's pause added, "The Lord Jesus Christ is a great Saviour," as if it would be matter of astonishment if he could not trust so *great a Saviour*. After tenderly addressing his children and leaving messages for absent friends and for the members of his congregation, he said, "I want my property used for the glory of God and the comfort of my family, and I want the plan that we have agreed on and practiced—that of giving one-tenth—still carried out. We did it when we seemed to have but little, and God has blessed us."

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#### REV. JOHN TENNENT.

A few minutes before Mr. Tennent expired, holding his brother William by the hand, he broke out into the following rapturous expressions: "Farewell, my brethren; farewell, father and mother; farewell, world, with all thy vain delights! Welcome, God and Father; welcome, sweet Lord Jesus!

Welcome, death ; welcome, eternity ! Amen !” Then, with a low voice, he said, “ Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus !”

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GEORGE W. THOMPSON, D. D.

When the physician announced to Dr. Thompson that his end was approaching, he replied calmly and submissively, “ The Lord’s will be done.” Turning affectionately to his wife, he asked, “ Mother, can *you say that ?*” Having arranged his worldly affairs, he took a tender leave of his wife, his son and his daughters, commending them to a faithful, covenant-keeping God. Being asked about his hope, he replied, “ It is only the hope of a poor sinner.” To his people he sent as a message, “ Remember the words which I spake unto you while I was yet with you.” Shortly afterward he said, “ Sing ! Sing the ninetieth hymn, ‘ There is a fountain filled with blood.’” During the singing a radiant smile illumined his features. As he was sinking rapidly, his wife asked him, “ Is Jesus precious ?” He replied, “ Oh yes, *he is ;*” and thus calmly, peacefully, he fell asleep in Jesus.

## REV. JOHN C. THOM.

During his illness Mr. Thom was continually speaking of the goodness of God and of the preciousness of Christ. Referring to his ministry, he said, "It seems to me that I have new views of the glory of the Saviour, and that if I am spared I can preach as I have never before done." When asked by a friend if he knew his wife, who stood at his bedside, he gave no reply. When asked again who was speaking to him, he could not tell; but when asked still further if he knew Christ, he replied, with a smile, "Oh yes! He is all my salvation and all my joy." When his tongue seemed to have lost the power of speech, with the audible whisper "Heaven!" on his lips, he sank into unconsciousness and calmly breathed his life away.

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## REV. E. R. TUCKER.

Mr. Tucker, just before he expired, said, "None but Jesus," repeating it three times with emphasis, and added, "My soul thirsteth for God."

## REV. JACOB TUTTLE.

Only a day or two before he died Mr. Tuttle was heard singing as cheerfully as a child the psalm :

“ My spirit looks to God alone ;  
My rock and refuge is his throne ;  
In all my fears, in all my straits,  
My soul on his salvation waits.”

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## REV. JOHN P. VANDYKE.

In his last illness Mr. Vandyke was sustained by divine grace. Once he exclaimed, “ Oh that the happy hour were come, that I might change my faith to sight ! It is better to depart and be with Christ than to remain here.” When asked, “ Have you no fears ? ” he replied, “ Not lately. I have learned to be as a little child, and trust for all things. I know that He who has promised is able to do all that he has promised.”

## REV. BENJAMIN J. WALLACE.

On the afternoon of the day before his death, after a moment of what seemed to be rapturous contemplation, Mr. Wallace said, "Oh, the inexpressible glory, the ineffable sweetness, of our Saviour! You must come to the cross. Cling to our Saviour. Lay hold of the cross in simple, childlike faith." He wanted to hear some of the promises, and the second verse of the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah was repeated: "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." He answered, "Yes." After that he said but little. His last words to his wife were, "I move into the light."

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## REV. SAMUEL WAUGH.

A little while before Mr. Waugh breathed his last he had his children brought to his bedside. Looking upon them all, he said, "My poor girls!"



paused, and then asked, "What is the chief end of man?" This question one of the children answered in the words of the Catechism: "To glorify God, and enjoy him for ever." After this not another word was spoken by him. He closed his eyes, and soon calmly and peacefully expired.

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REV. SAMUEL D. WESTERVELT.

When it was ascertained that Mr. Westervelt must die, his weeping wife said to him, "My dear, what have you to say if it should be the will of the Lord to take you?" He answered, "The will of the Lord be done!" It was said to him, near his last moments, "My heart and my strength faileth me, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever." He emphatically answered, "Sweet, sweet!" The last words that fell from his quivering lips were, "They are singing in heaven."

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HENRY WHITE, D.D.

Dr. White's physician said to him, "You have long preached the doctrines of the cross: do you get



any new views?" He answered, "Brighter and brighter," then added, "Oh, the unspeakable preciousness of the atonement by the blood of Christ! I have preached it for years, and taught others to preach it; and now I know its worth." A friend repeated to him the line,

"Thine earthly Sabbaths, Lord, we love."

He responded, "But there's a nobler rest above," and, pointing his finger upward, added, "There the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

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#### REV. LEWIS W. WILLIAMS.

When told that he could not recover, Mr. Williams replied, "Yes, yes! The Lord's will be done." The next evening, being that of the prayer-meeting, he remarked to a gentleman present, "Remember your pastor in your prayers. He has often prayed for you; now you must pray for him." He

would frequently say, "My work is done. His service was my delight, but the Lord has nothing more for me to do. Oh that I could sing his praise! but my harp is all unstrung."

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### JAMES PATRIOT WILSON, D. D.

Dr. Wilson's triumph over the fear of death was complete. "I have," said he, "been looking the case between God and myself over and over again; and though I see enough to justify God in casting me off a thousand times, and more, my conviction of my interest in Christ is so firm that I cannot make myself afraid. The only thing I fear is that I have not fears enough." He remarked on the last Sabbath evening of his life, "I am almost home, and I thank God that I am. I went astray from him, but in his rich mercy he brought me back. I am unworthy of the least of his mercies; and if I may lie down beside his footstool, or if he will even put me under it, I will take the very lowest place in heaven." A few hours before he died he asked a brother in the ministry to pray for him, and speci-

fied this petition: "Pray that God will do with me just as he pleases."

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REV. ROBERT W. WILSON.

To the Synod, in session a week before his departure, Mr. Wilson's last message was, "Tell the brethren my work seems to be done. I am full of confidence in the Lord Jesus, for whose coming I wait. Give them my love and tell them to be faithful. I love the brethren. Ask them to pray for us and bid them farewell." His last words, spoken clearly a few moments before his spirit gently took its flight "to be for ever with the Lord," were, "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly!"

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EDWARD W. WRIGHT, D. D.

Sickness, with death in prospect, did not alarm Dr. Wright. "I have no fears," were his quiet words. To go or to stay, as God might will, he

seemed perfectly content, though "willing rather to depart." And of that departure he spoke as cheerfully as one would speak of a pleasant journey. On one occasion, knowing that a ministerial brother to whom he was much attached was in the room below, he sent for him, not to talk—for this he was too weak—but just to say, "Good-bye," pleasantly—"Good-bye."

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